

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of effecting a handoff in a cellular network, comprising the steps of:

- (a) monitoring a set of frequencies listed in a mobile assisted handoff (MAHO) list for their respective signal strengths;
- (b) logically ordering the frequencies based on their relative signal strengths;
- (c) identifying in the logically ordered set of frequencies those frequencies having a signal strength higher than a predetermined threshold;
- (d) associating a cellular site with at least each frequency in the set of frequencies that has a signal strength higher than the predetermined threshold;
- (e) determining a level of traffic at each cellular site identified in the associating in step (d); and
- (f) selecting a cellular site for handoff based at least in part on signal strength and in part on the level of traffic.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the MAHO list is generated by a mobile switching center (MSC).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined threshold is a signal strength above which a communications link between a mobile device and a cellular site can be readily maintained.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (e)~~ the identifying comprises representing the level of traffic with labels.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (e)~~ the determining comprises representing the level of traffic with numerical values.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (f)~~ the selecting comprises determining which frequency of the frequencies having a signal strength higher than the predetermined threshold has the lowest level of traffic.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the cellular site based in part on a projected route of a mobile device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the cellular site based in part on cellular site load patterns.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the signal strengths from a mobile device.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein steps (a)—(f) are implemented at least in part with software.

12. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the logically ordering the frequencies includes ordering all frequencies from highest to lowest signal strength.